

Sullivan County NH

Type of Meeting: Sullivan County Full Delegation
Date/Time: July 14, 2006 / 9:00 AM
Place: Newport Remington Woodhull County Complex
Commissioners Conference Room

Members Present: Rep. Steve Prichard, Rep. Thomas Donovan, Rep. Peter Franklin, Rep. Charlotte Houde-Quimby, Rep. Larry Converse, Rep. Harry Gale, Rep. Joe Osgood, Rep. Arthur Jillette, Rep. Beverly Rodeschin, Rep. James Phinizy, Rep. John Cloutier

Commissioners Present: Comm. Don Clarke, and Comm. Ethel Jarvis

Other Elected Officials and County Employees Present: *County Manager-* Ed Gil de Rubio

Other Attendees: Members of the Press and Public

Chair John Cloutier called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM

Following the pledge to the flag, Rep. **Donovan moved and Rep. Gale seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the 6/19/2006 meeting as written.** Rep. Phinizy felt the proposed minutes did not reflect what he proposed in a motion made towards the end of the meeting. Rep. Donovan felt that Rep. Phinizy had a right to correct the minutes as it pertained to his statements. Rep. Franklin felt there was no rush to get the minutes approved. He does however; feel a timely transcript is needed. Rep. Rodeschin questioned the need for a verbatim transcript – felt it would be a waste of time and money. She did not have a problem with adding the comments of Rep. Phinizy.

Then Rep. Phinizy moved to amend the minutes to reflect a summary of the comments he made in the annual meeting. Question was called (10-3 in favor). Phinizy motion passed via a majority voice vote.

Question called on amended motion to approve the minutes of the annual convention. (Voice vote 10-1 in favor). Motion passed on a Roll Call vote 9-2 in favor. (Yea – Prichard, Donovan, Houde-Quimby, Gale, Osgood, Jillette, Rodeschin, Phinizy, Cloutier. Nay-Franklin, Converse.)

Rep Rodeschin moved and Rep. Osgood seconded a motion that Rep. Gale be appointed to the SB319 Task Force. Rep. Phinizy felt this was not a proper vote, as the Chair should appoint the Task Force member. Rep. Rodeschin and Rep. Osgood withdrew their motion.

Committee Reports- Rep Prichard commented that a study committee should be appointed to develop a better (shorter) process to develop a budget in future years. County Manager Gil de Rubio – noted that he is planning some activities to reduce the time for the development of a budget in future years. Commissioner Clarke feels that any decisions should involve the county officers and the executive finance committee and that the county commissioners and the executive finance committee should meet together. Rep. Franklin feels that the budget is a two-step process. The commissioners approve a budget, the EFC recommends a budget and then the convention makes a decision. Rep. Phinizy recommended that a committee be appointed to streamline the budget process.

There ensued a discussion of Sullivan County Healthcare:

Rep. Donovan expressed some serious concerns about

- a.) The Genesis Contract
- b.) Unit Aide Firings
- c.) Changes in practices
- d.) Resident care quality
- e.) Only one meeting with genesis staff
- f.) Quality of care since changes in staffing patterns
- g.) Family concerns re: quality of care
- h.) Staff concerns about quality of care
- i.) The Baylor situation

Rep. Donovan feels he cannot remain silent any longer. He expressed a desire that new intakes be halted until we are sure these issues have been resolved.

Rep. Rodeschin – has HHS been requested to conduct an audit? You can request an audit if you feel there has been mistreatment of residents.

Rep. Donovan feels that there have been a lot of problems with the Baylor Program. Rep. Houde-Quimby wants more information on the Baylor Program. Ed Gil de Rubio- there has been problems with the program. Too many call outs etc. We are absorbing the Baylor staff back into our regular program. Rep. Houde-Quimby is any of the Baylor Staff resigning. Ed Gil de Rubio – most are staying on with us.

Rep. Osgood – feels we should hire a consultant to compare the County Facility to other facilities. He feels there is as conflict of interest with Mr. Donovan making statements as a member of the county delegation with his employment as a worker with elderly people.

Rep. Prichard – is this a discussion about Genesis or a discussion about conditions at the County Home? Rep. Phinizy has had discussions with people about problems at the Home. He feels we need a professional audit of the place.

Rep. Rodeschin left the meeting at 11:00 AM

Rep. Donovan - questions the remarks about conflict of interest. When he hears about problems it's a conflict of interest. When others hear about problems it's not??

Rep. Houde-Quimby- noted that she has received information about problems with staffing loads, and illegal changes in patient records. Rep. Franklin spoke in support of Rep. Donovan and Rep. Houde-Quimby. He feels that they have no personal gain to make from the questions they are asking.

Rep. Rodeschin returned to the meeting at 11:10 AM. She had made a phone call to HHS about the issues being raised. She spoke about the process for seeking a program audit.

Commissioner Clark remarked that he has yet to receive a complaint. Mr. Gil de Rubio made a comment about providing assistance. He referred to current discussion as a "Witch Hunt". Rep. Donovan noted that he would continue to follow up on complaints made to him.

Rep. Gale -- noted that we have approved changes that reduced the tax drain on the county. We are now moving into a new phase that may have created new unexpected problems. He feels we should be spending more time looking at what we have accomplished, document problems, and propose solutions.

Rep. Phinizy -- if we don't get results from HHS, then we need to request a performance audit. Rep. Donovan -- We have tried to phase out Genesis as a delegation. The Commissioners have killed a phase-out. For a Performance Audit, we may have to wait in line. My concerns are real.

Rep. Franklin -- We voted to fund Genesis for 9 months. That would have allowed for a smooth transition. The next day the Commissioners moved to find the money to continue the contract. RSA 24:15 makes this illegal. RSA 27:17 cites' our right to create a committee to investigate County activity. RSA 24:16 cites' our right to conduct Performance Audits.

Rep. Phinizy and Rep. Osgood had a dialog over the need to allow a HHS Audit or to Request a Performance Audit.

Rep. Prichard -- The County Commissioners have a right to move funds. Rep. Franklin quotes the RSA's that the Commissioners cannot transfer funds without permission of the delegation.

Rep. Houde-Quimby -- The number of patients with High Acuity Needs has increased and the number of nurses available to deal with them had decreased.

Rep. Phinizy -- suggests that he and Rep. Donovan seek an anonymous complaint.

Rep. Osgood -- Wants a legal opinion regarding RSA 24:14 -- what is the intent of that law? Feels that Chair Cloutier contact the Attorney General.

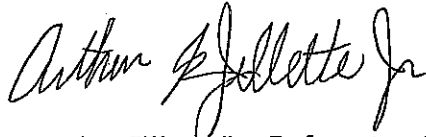
Rep. Franklin- There are other items in the budget related to the Nursing Home.

Rep. Converse – Thought our budget did not have enough money.

Rep. Franklin - Suggests monthly meetings to audit county affairs.

Following a short discussion, Rep. Cloutier recessed the meeting at 11:53 AM to meet at the call of the Chair.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Arthur Gillette Jr.".

Rep. Arthur Gillette Jr., *Delegation Clerk*
Sullivan County Delegation

AJ/lg